

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /112 W

----- 087869

R 200645Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3979

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT SN ID MY

SUBJECT: STRAITS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

REF: A. STATE 270609 B. JAKARTA 14005

1. ON NOVEMBER 18 EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON HOCHSTADT
AND INFORMED HIM OF USG REACTION TO SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF
SINGAPORE TRAFFICE SEPARATION SCHEME.

2. IN FOLLOW-ON CONVERSATION, HOCHSTADT MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A) NEXT TRIPARTITE MEETING ON THE STRAITS IS SCHEDULED FOR
DECEMBER 17-18-19 IN KUALA LUMPUR.

B) CONFIRMED THAT SINGAPORE HAD AGREED, AT SEPTEMBER MEETING
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ON STRAITS, TO 3 METERS UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE (UKC) REQUIREMENT

FOR SHIPS USING MALACCA STRAITS (REFTEL B). ACCORDING TO HOCHSTADT, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA ARE PUSHING FOR A UKC LIMIT "IN EXCESS OF 3 METERS." HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED, PREFERABLY AT 3 METERS, OR POSSIBLY AT A "SOMEWHAT HIGHER" LEVEL.

C) SINGAPORE REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY WEIGHT LIMITS ON VESSELS USING THE STRAITS. FEELING WITHIN GOS IS THAT THIS ISSUE IS NOT AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA AND THAT LATTER WILL DROP THEIR DESIRE FOR A WEIGHT LIMIT PROVIDED A SETTLEMENT ON UKC ISSUE IS REACHED.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER URGED THAT STRAITS NATIONS COORDINATE THROUGH IMCO ANY AGREED SCHEME PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HOCHSTADT REITERATED GOS SUPPORT FOR THIS PROCEDURE (SINGAPORE 4310), ADDING THAT IMCO APPROVAL OF A STRAITS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME WOULD MAKE IT MANDATORY, UNDER THE REVISED INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA CONVENTION (1972) WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME INTO FORCE SOMETIME IN 1976, FOR VESSELS OF CONVENTION SIGNATORIES TO ABIDE BY ROUTING RULES.

4. COMMENT: IMPRESSION HOCHSTADT GAVE WAS ONE OF SOME CONFIDENCE THAT THE THREE COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES ON THE FEW REMAINING ISSUES AND ADOPT A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AT DECEMBER MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR. THIS VIEW IS GIVEN CREDENCE BY HOCHSTADT'S OBSERVATION THAT KUALA LUMPUR MEETING WILL MARK COMPLETION OF CIRCUIT THROUGH IMS CAPITALS AND THAT ANOTHER CIRCUIT WILL PROVE UNNECESSARY. ALSO INDICATIVE THAT AGREEMENT MAY BE IMMINENT ARE PLANS, REVEALED BY HOCHSTADT, FOR VISITS AT END OF NOVEMBER/BEGINNING OF DECEMBER TO THREE CAPITALS BY DELEGATIONS FROM THE LONDON-BASED OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARITIME FORUM (OCIMF). LOCAL OIL COMPANY SOURCE ON NOV 19 TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE OCIMF TEAMS WILL VISIT REGION IN CONNECTION WITH A "SURVEY OF THE STRAITS."

5. ALTHOUGH HOCHSTADT REPEATED GOS PREFERENCE FOR SUBMITTING TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL
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AND PROMULGATION PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION BY IMS COUNTRIES, EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER GOS WILL BE WILLING TO RESIST STRONGLY FELT INDONESIAN, AND POSSIBLY, MALAYSIAN, VIEW THAT IMCO NEED ONLY BE CONSULTED. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP ON THIS POINT WITH MFA ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION.
HOLDRIDGE

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